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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,797	04/13/2006	Emiel Peeters	GB03 0187 US1	3902
24738	7590	12/22/2008	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			BANH, DAVID H	
PO BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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12/22/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/575,797	<b>Applicant(s)</b> PEETERS ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> DAVID BANH	<b>Art Unit</b> 2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,6 and 7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,6 and 7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2008 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/13/2006

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: NPL Glasmaster.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 2 in the reply filed on October 1, 2008 is acknowledged.

### ***Double Patenting***

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1 and 7 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of Burdinski et al., copending Application No. 10/575,437. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claim 1 of Burdinski et al. claims an elastomeric stamp and a bulk surface with a protruding feature, which would comprise the first and third surfaces. The remainder of the bulk surface constitutes a second surface. Claim 1 of Burdinski et al. also recites a barrier layer carried by the bulk surface.

Additionally, for claim 7, it appears that the bulk surface as claimed would comprise first and third surfaces that are perpendicular to each other.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. Claims 1, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams et al. (US PG Pub 2005/0120902) in view of Glasmastar et al. (see attached Langmuir 2003 document pages 5475-5483).

Adams et al. teaches a elastomeric stamp **10** for printing a pattern on a substrate (see Figure 1a)m the stamp comprises a first surface in a first plane, a second surface on a second plate and a third surface perpendicular to both connecting them. It should be understood that the surfaces are all shown in Figure 1A and the first surface is the outer surface that contacts the substrate, the second surface is the interior surface of the recess **12** and the third surface is the edge **19**. Adams et al. teaches the third surface to be permeable to ink (page 3, paragraph 25, page 5, paragraph 37), but does not teach that the first surface comprises a barrier layer being substantially impermeable to ink. However, Glasmastar et al. teaches a process of treating the surface of an elastomeric stamp to produce a barrier layer that is relatively impermeable to ink (see page 5475, paragraph 2 of the introduction). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to treat the first surface to form a barrier layer, to repel ink since it is undesirable to print ink on the substrate areas contacted by the first surface. It is also inherent that the stamp is formed from a first material.

For claim 6: Glasmaster et al. teaches a process of treating the surface of an elastomeric stamp to produce a barrier layer that is relatively impermeable to ink (see page 5475, paragraph 2 of the introduction). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to produce a barrier layer on the second surface of the stamp to prevent ink from permeating into the back part of the stamp where it is more likely to be trapped and wasted.

For claim 7: Adam et al. clearly shows the first and third edges to be perpendicular to one another (see Figure 1A).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID BANH whose telephone number is (571)270-3851. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:30AM-8PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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DHB  
December 22, 2008

/Daniel J. Colilla/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2854